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SUBJ: BFS BICENTENNIAL PROJECT - APRIL -MAY 1976

REF: STATE 190997

1. BIODATA ON ATO (MR.) TSEGAYE GEBRE-MEDHIN AND DR. ASSEFA MEHRETU FOLLOW:

A) TSEGAYE GEBRE-MEDHIN, PERMANENT SECRETARY IN MINISTRY OF CULTURE, SPORTS & YOUTH AFFAIRS, AND DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL THEATER; BORN AUGUST 17, 1936 IN AMBO, ETHIOPIA; ATTENDED GENERAL WINGATE HIGH SCHOOL AND COMMERCIAL SCHOOL OF ADDIS ABABA, RECEIVED LLB FROM BLACKSTONE SCHOOL OF LAW AT CHICAGO (CORRESPONDENCE); ATTENDED ENGLISH EXPERIMENTAL THEATER AT ROYAL COURT THEATRE, LONDON AND FRENCH EXPERIMENTAL THEATER AT COMEDIEFRANCAIS UNDER UNESCO FELLOWSHIP (1959-60); HAS WRITTEN 20 AMHARIC AND THREE ENGLISH PLAYS, PUBLISHED ONE AMHARIC BOOK OF PEMS, WRITTEN SEVERAL ENGLISH POEMS, TRANSLATED SIX WORKS OF SHAKESPEARE AND MOLIERE INTO AMHHARIC. OVER 16 PLAYS STAGED IN ADDIS, ALSO IN LAGOS, IBADAN, NAIROBI AND ALGIERS. MEMBER OF COLLOQUIUM, FIRST WORLD NEGRO FESTIVAL, DAKAR (1964); PRESENTED PAPERS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES: "ART IN THE LIFE OF THE ETHIOPIAN PUBLIC/, FIRST WORLD NEGRO FESTIVAL, DAKAR (1964); "LITERATURE AND THE AFRICAN PUBLIC" AT AFRO-SCANDINAVIAN CULTURAL CONFERENCE IN COPENHAGEN, DENMARK (1967); "MONKEY-MAN CULTURE IN THE PRESENT CRISES OF WORLD CIVILIZATION", AFRO-ETHIOPIAN DIALOGUE ON THE CRISES OF CIVILIZATION, ROME (1969).

1965, AWARDED HAILE SELASSIE I PRIZE TRUST AWARD FOR THIS WORK IN AMHARIC LITERATURE; TRAVEL STUDY GRANTS BY YUGOSLAVIA, UNCLASSIFIED

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ISRAEL, WAST GERMANY, USSR; IN 1966 WAS SPECIALIST GRANTEE

UNDER DEPARTMENT'S PROGRAM (COUNCIL ON LEADERS AND SPECIALISTS) AND IN 1971, CONFERENCE BOARD RESEARCH PROGRAM FOR 75 DAYS AT SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE, 1968-69, EXTERNAL EXAMINER FOR THEATER ARTS AT INVITATION OF FORMER EAST AFRICAN UNIVERSITY; LED ETHIOPIAN DELEGATIONS' CULTURAL GROUPS TO DAR ES SALAAM AND NAIROBI FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS. MAJOR PLAYS: CROWN OF THORN, AUTUMN, THE UGLY GIRL, MUMPS, BACK WITH A GRIN, THE SEASONED, THE CRY OF PEROS AT THE HOUR, ABC IN SIX MONTHS, ETC. TSEGAYE, LEADING ETHIOPIAN PLAYWRIGHT/ DIRECTOR, AND POET. HE IS FLUENT IN ENGLISH AND EXCELLENT SPEAKER. HAS DONE EXTENSIVE RESEARCH ON AFRICAN THEATER AND HAS PRESENTED PAPER ON SUBJECT AT CONFERENCE OF AFRICANISTS HELD AT AFRICA HALL ALMOST TWO YEARS AGO.

B) DR. ASSEFA NEHRETI, DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, BORN AUGUST 7, 1939, ADDIS ABABA; BA IN GEOGRAPHY, HSI UNIVERSITY (1964); PH.D. IN ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY WITH EMPHASIS IN REGIONAL PLANNING FROM THE JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY (1964-69); FORMERLY ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AND CHAIRMAN, DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY; PUBLISHED ONE BOOK "REGIONAL INTEGRATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF GREATER EAST AFRICA" AND WRITTEN TWO JOURNAL ARTICLES, FOUR CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PAPERS, VARIOUS OTHER PROFESSIONAL DOCUMENTS ON RESEARCH AND INSTITUTION BUILDING. HAS TRAVELLED TO USA, JAPAN, ITALY, KENYA, UGANDA, TANZANIA, NIGERIA, IVORY COAST, GHANA, AND ISRAEL. ASSEFA MARRIED AND HAS TWO DAUGHTERS. HE SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH AND IS EXCELLENT LECTURER.

2. IN ADDITION, EMBASSY PROPOSES FOLLOWING CANDIDATE FOR CONSIDERATION SUBJECT PROJECT:
ATO (MR.) SHIBRU SEIFU, COUNSELOR AT LAW; BORN JULY 23, 1938 IN ETHIOPIA; BA IN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ADDIS ABABA (1962); MA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE FROM UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS (1966) AS FULBRIGHTS SCHOLAR; LLB FROM UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW SCHOOL (1967). ELECTED TO HONORARY SOCIETY OF POLITICAL SCIENTISTS FROM KANSAS UNIVERSITY. TEMPORARILY WORKED AT THE LAW FIRM OF SURREY, KARASIK, GOULD AND GREENE, WASHINGTON, D.C. (1967/68). AS COUNSELOR AT LAW DEALS WITH LEGAL ADVICE IN ALL AREAS,
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COURT LITIGATION, BUSINESS ANALYSIS, INTERNATIONAL LAW AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS. SHIBRU FLUENT IN ENGLISH AND EXCELLENT SPEAKER.
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